

RELATIONSHIP MATTERS!

Scripture used: [John 13:34-35 \(TLB\)](#)

OVERVIEW

This week Pastor Hurmon treated the church to a special Father's Day sermon by his own mentor and "father in the ministry," Bishop Donald Green. He spoke about his own father, a hard man who did not show him any affection growing up. He explained how that affected him growing up, just like we are all affected by the broken relationships of this world. Why are relationships so important? Because we were designed for friendship, fellowship, and love. Bishop Green drew extensively from the Gospels to prove this point, then clarified what it means for our walk with God as well as our treatment of people in our everyday lives. Relationships make life worth living!

KEY POINTS

- 1) **We cannot live without relationships.** Bishop Green quoted the famous writer John Donne who said "[No man is an island.](#)" God is the only being that does not need to rely on others. As it says in [Acts 17:24-25 \(TLB\)](#), "human hands can't minister to His needs." [Romans 5:8 \(MSG\)](#) also makes the same point when it says "we were of no use whatsoever" to God. In fact, the Bible makes it clear that God didn't create us because He needed us. God created us as an expression of His love, and so we could enter into relationship with Him. We were custom-made for relationship!
- 2) **Relationship with God matters.** There is only one way to know God. We need to enter through Jesus, as He explained in [John 14:6 \(MSG\)](#). The Old Testament is full of complicated rituals that the Israelites had to perform just so they could connect to God. At the time when Jesus was ministering, there were over 600 official Commandments! No one could follow all of them, which is why Jesus was asked which were most important. He answered in [Matthew 22:35-40 \(NLT\)](#) that we must "love the Lord your God" and "love your neighbor as yourself."
- 3) **Relationship with others matters.** Bishop Green used the story of the Good Samaritan in [Luke 10:25-37 \(NKJV\)](#) as an example of what it means to love others. The Samaritan was the last person who should have helped the poor man who had been robbed and left for dead. But he set aside his prejudices aside and instead saw a human being in need. Then he showed his love by helping him. If we each acted this way, the world would be transformed instantly!
- 4) **Father-child relationships matter.** Father's Day is a reminder of how special the relationship is between a father and his children. Boys and girls need to know that they are loved by their fathers, and sons especially need a role model of true manhood, one of courage, integrity, authenticity, and servanthood. Sons need to know that it is okay to show emotion. And all children need to know that their fathers will always welcome them home.
 - a. **The story of the Prodigal Son shows the essence of fatherly love.** The story told in [Luke Chapter 15 \(NKJV\)](#) shows us what it means to be a father. A foolish young man is given his inheritance too soon. He wastes it all, ending up as a slave eating pig food. But when he decides to return home, his father sees him in the distance and runs to him! The father only cares that his son has returned. This is the way we should love our sons because this is the way that God loves us!

DISCUSSION

- 1) **HEAR** - Who is your most positive father figure? What did this person help you learn about life?
- 2) **UNDERSTAND** - God's love will never fade no matter what we do. God is like the father in the story of the Prodigal Son, running to greet us when we turn back to Him. Think back to a time when you rebelled against God, and He still loved you through it.
- 3) **DO** - Identify one specific person who has been a father figure to you. Reach out to this person on the phone, or in an email or letter. Celebrate him by explaining how much of a positive impact he had on your life.